



LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

We know you love our beach!

Each of us is responsible for protecting and preserving it, and the cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach strive to provide a safe, clean, family-friendly environment for everyone visiting. To help you do your part, here are some tips for enjoying our coast responsibly, along with some rules, regulations and resources.

Beach Rules & Regulations

The following are regulated by local, state or federal laws or ordinances that are enforced on our beaches. Enjoying our coastline responsibly ensures a more positive experience for you and helps ensure the safety of all our visitors and the sustainability of our natural resources.



Any structures or equipment left on the beach an hour after sunset will be removed and disposed of by beach patrol (except for permitted beach services).



Individual lodging properties and land owners may allow tents and shelters in designated areas during the day. Learn the rules for your stretch of beach.



These items are not allowed on our beaches:

- ✗ Glass containers
- ✗ Metal shovels or excessive digging
- ✗ Litter
- ✗ Tents or structures larger than 10' X 10'
- ✗ Overnight camping
- ✗ Fireworks
- ✗ Firearms
- ✗ Fires
- ✗ Pets
- ✗ Vehicles



Keep off the dunes. Staying off the dunes will help us to preserve our dune system and the habitat it provides. Use beach walkovers and boardwalks where provided.



Observe and obey the Beach Warning Flag System. (See right.) Double red flags mean the waters are closed for your safety.



Be respectful of private property beyond the bounds of your lodging property.

**Call 251-968-TIDE (8433)
or 251-981-SURF (7873)
for current
surf conditions.**

Beach Warning Flag System



Low Hazard
Calm Conditions,
Exercise Caution



Medium Hazard
Moderate Surf and/or
Currents



**Dangerous
Marine Life**



High Hazard
High Surf and/or
Strong Currents



**Water Closed
to the Public**

For more sustainability resources, information on updated city rules and regulations and the latest from www.cleanisland.org. Leave only footprints!



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Preserving Our Resources

We want to preserve the incredible beauty and health of our beaches so we can all enjoy our coastal resources for years to come. While you are here, you can help to protect the Island by doing the following during your stay:



Dispose of all your trash and garbage properly. You can even pick up others' trash along the way. Fish, birds, sea turtles and mammals can become entangled in fishing line. Plastic bags floating in the water resemble jellyfish; sea turtles can mistakenly eat them. You could even plan a visit during the Annual Coastal Cleanup each September. Help keep our beaches clean.



Recycle – Put your recyclable items in the blue recycling cans, where provided.



Avoid walking on vegetation; plant roots hold the fragile dunes together.



Explore away from bird nesting areas. Human presence can frighten adult birds causing them to leave their young unattended. Nests may be located in the ground and camouflaged to resemble the surrounding environment; you can easily step on them.



Invest in a reusable bag to carry your shopping purchases to avoid using plastic bags. You'll be stylish and create less waste!



Keep the natural ecosystem intact by not digging holes and by avoiding the removal of shells, driftwood or other items you may find during your island explorations.